

Paul - "I Am" Sunday PM 04/15/18

Introduction:

Most of us are familiar with the "I AM's" of Jesus. I am the way, the truth, the Life, the Light, etc. The word "I" is a personal singular pronoun in which the speaker or writer refers to him or herself. The word "am" is a harder word to define, most say it is a form of the word "be" as in being something or doing something. Paul is using the words "I am" meaning something he is and something he is doing.

I) I Am Debtor to the Greeks and Barbarians, *Romans 1.14*

A) Why was Paul indebted to or owed something?

1. In our text it is because they were all lost, under the burden of sin, *Romans 3.10-11*.
2. Much like you or I would feel if we knew something that could or would save the life of a person and had the opportunity to save them.
3. Paul had been appointed or selected to go and preach the Gospel.
 - a. This goes all the way back to his conversion, *Acts 22.7-10*.
 - b. Read *Acts 9.15*, Paul was appointed to preach to both Jews and Gentiles.

B) The revelation of truth carries with it responsibilities.

1. Paul felt his personal responsibility to share the Gospel, *1 Corinthians 9.16-17*.

2. All of are indebted and entrusted with a stewardship. To proclaim, share the Gospel with those who will listen.

II) I Am Ready (Eager) to Preach, *Romans 1.15*

A) Enthusiasm is important in anything we do.

1. Paul had a willingness, a sense of want to in his preaching. *Galatians 1.14*
2. He was not too busy to serve God, to preach, to travel, etc.

B) In his preaching he relied on the basics.

1. He preached the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord.
2. If someone asked you about Jesus, could you explain the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 3.15.*

III) I Am Not Ashamed, *Romans 1.16*

A) Why would Paul or anybody else be ashamed of the Gospel?

1. In the first century, only criminals were crucified. *Galatians 3.13.*
2. To some it was too simple of a means to salvation, *1 Corinthians 1.17-23.*

B) Why would Paul not be ashamed of the Gospel?

1. It is the power of God to salvation, *Romans 1.16-17.*

2. Paul did not doubt God or the power of the Gospel, *2 Timothy 1.12*.
3. Are we sometimes ashamed of God's means of salvation? Do we hold back the Gospel because we are afraid of ridicule or rejection?

IV) I Am Amazed, *Galatians 1.6*

A) Not referring to their acceptance of the true Gospel but their acceptance of a false Gospel.

1. There is only 1 true Gospel of Christ, *Galatians 1.7*.
2. Any deviation from the true Gospel makes it a false Gospel.

B) Once we reject the true Gospel we reject Christ and our salvation, *Hebrews 10.26*.

1. Sometimes we might be amazed as people's willingness to accept something contrary to the word of God.
2. We might be amazed at people going back into the world. *Galatians 1.8-10*.

V) I Am Hard Pressed, *Phil. 1.23*

A) His condition was one of suffering and uncertainty

1. He had been in prison but was under house arrest at this time, *Phil. 1.24-26*.
2. Paul was making real sacrifices and was "hard pressed"

B) In this context he is referring to his desire to leave and be with Christ or stay and help the brethren.

1. Perhaps the greatest sacrifice Paul was making at this time was continuing to live for Christ.
2. We might feel the same way when going through trials and sufferings.

VI) But By The Grace of God, I Am what I Am, *1 Corinthians 15.10*

A) Things could have turned out a lot differently for Paul

1. What if he had not seen Jesus on the road to Damascus?
2. What if he had rejected the way of salvation?
3. What if he had continued to advance in Judaism and lived a prosperous life?
4. Paul was thankful for his opportunity to become a Christian, his task as an Apostle, his suffering for Christ, and even dying for Him.

B) But by the grace of God is a phrase we can also use

1. What if I never had the opportunity to hear the truth?
2. What if I rejected it?
3. What if I died before obeying it?
4. What if I had lived a long prosperous life but was lost?
5. By the grace of God we can be saved today.